

MEMO

**To: Adult Day Providers
VT Association of Adult Day Services Providers**

From: Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Commissioner

Date: April 28, 2020

Re: Adult Day Services – Medicaid Financial Relief & Choices for Care Service Options

This memo is to communicate the Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living's (DAIL) continued support of Vermont's Adult Day Services providers through two avenues: Medicaid financial relief for lost revenue and Choices for Care service options.

On March 17, 2020, providers of Adult Day Services received State instructions to temporarily close operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To reduce the financial risk to providers and avoid long-term closures, the State has created the following options for Adult Day Services providers:

1. Medicaid Financial Relief Retainer Application:

- a. Phase 1: April 3, 2020, all Medicaid providers received notification by the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) of a Medicaid retainer process designed to provide financial relief for lost revenue and increased expenses through April 30, 2020. Applications were due by April 21, 2020.
- b. Phase 2: April 27, 2020, DVHA posted an opportunity to receive continued financial support for lost Medicaid revenue beginning May 2020. For instructions and deadlines, refer to the [DVHA cover letter](#), [FAQ](#), and [Opt-In form](#). Subject to the availability of funds, the program will remain in effect for the months of May and June, 2020, after which the Agency of Human Services will determine whether to extend payments based on the status of the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Once a provider opts into the program, monthly payments will flow to that provider for the duration of the program unless the provider submits a written request to cease participation in accordance with the guidance.

2. Choices for Care Services: Adult Day providers may offer and provide alternative telephonic or essential in-person Choices for Care services to adult day participants between March 13, 2020 through the COVID-19 period of closure. **To be eligible for reimbursement, Adult Day Providers must assure the services are needed, assure participants or their legal representative have accepted the services, assure the case manager is informed about the plan, and clearly document the services provided.** No prior approval is needed for active Choices for Care participants.
 - a. CFC High/Highest Telephonic Companion Services: Adult Day providers may provide and bill Companion Services for telephonic check-in with adult day participants. Providers must use revenue code 073, at \$6 per 15-minute increment. It is important that providers notify the participant's case manager so the case manager can assure that each person has enough companion hours to meet their needs.
 - b. CFC High/Highest In-Person Personal Care Services: Adult Day providers who have identified participants with a critical need for essential personal care services and have the ability to support staff to provide these in-person services according to existing VT Department of Health guidance, may provide and bill for CFC Personal Care Services. Providers must use revenue code 072 at \$7.49 per 15-minute increment.
 - c. Moderate Needs Flex Funds: Adult Day providers who have identified participants who have a need for telephonic or essential in-person services, may use the Moderate Needs Flex Funds services to pay for those services. Providers must use revenue code 071 at the rate of the service being provided. For Companion and Personal Care, please use the CFC High/Highest rate as noted above. Other service types may be billed at the prevailing rate for that service.

For questions about the Medicaid Retainer Application, please refer to the DVHA COVID-19 web page at <https://dvha.vermont.gov/covid-19>. For questions about the Choices for Care service options, contact Angela McMann at 802-793-6986 or angela.mcmann@vermont.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of Vermonters.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & UPDATES – Please visit the Vermont Health Department's, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention OR the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living's website at:

- <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://dail.vermont.gov/novel-coronavirus-information>